



**Mediating Community: Residential Development, Community, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)**

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# Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Communication and Creative Media



**Mediating  
Community:**  
Residential  
Development,  
Community,  
Information and  
Communication  
Technologies (ICTs)

A Gold Coast  
Research Project  
A Pilot Study  
Collaboration with  
Sunland Group

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*“technology appears  
to facilitate information  
flow and connection  
across the ‘digital society’,  
but can this replicate  
(or even replace) the  
emotional basis of face  
to face interaction that  
constitutes ‘genuine’  
community?”*

(Harris 2003)

### Research Questions

- What does community mean in the 21st Century?
- What building blocks are needed to initiate a community?
- How can ICTs impact community and human engagement within it?
- Can residential developments be constructed around civil society ideals to enhance engagement?
- Can humanistic values associated with community and incorporated in terms like ‘social justice’ and ‘social action’ be embodied in residential developments?
- If so, what kind of planning, organizational management and use of ICTs could be proposed to create the conditions for ‘value commitment’?

### Exploratory Research – Interdisciplinary Approaches

The project aims to define and describe community in new residential developments and mobilize existing, new and innovative ideas about community using ICTs.

The project documents interactions between Bond University researchers

and Sunland Group commercial residential property developers, with the goal of offering just-in-time evidence-based recommendations for ‘community practice.’

The Mediated Community project is unique in establishing a new set of site specific theoretical and practical applications aimed at solutions for the built environment.

### Methodology

Mixed research method: combined social science documentation strategies, critical, interpretive and analytical qualitative textual assessments drawn from the humanities. Individual and group data collection using paper-based survey techniques and focus group discussions and interviews will be used. Additional research instruments will be identified and used as the research progresses, in consultation with Sunland executives.

Objective: Linkage and Discovery Grant Applications to the Australian Research Council.

